

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03395 071601Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SOE-02 COME-00 OPIC-03 OES-07
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5692
USDOE WASHDC

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DOE FOR SIEVERING; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AID

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG TECH EMIN MO
SUBJECT: US/MOROCCAN COOPERATION IN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT:
PROPOSED VISIT OF AID ENERGY TEAM

REF A. RABAT 3286, B. STATE 133533

1. AFTER REACTING FAVORABLY TO PROPOSED VISIT OF DOE TEAM (REF A), MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES SEC GEN TAIEB SKALLI EXPRESSED EQUALLY STRONG INTEREST IN HAVING AID TEAM REVIEW GOM'S LONG-TERM ENERGY STRATEGY AND PROVIDE COUNSEL ON USG PRIVATE SECTOR AND/OR IFI FINANCING POSSIBILITIES FOR PRIORITY ENERGY PROJECTS, WHICH E/C COUNSELOR OUTLINED PER REF B. SKALLI ADDED THAT AID TEAM SHOULD NOT OMIT FROM ITS PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN MOROCCO A THOROUGH REVIEW OF COUNTRY'S NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY POTENTIAL, SPECIFICALLY SOLAR ENERGY AREA AND MINISTRY'S ARTIFICIAL SEA HYDRO POWER PROJECT IN TARFAYA, WHICH SAADI DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON WITH AID OFFICIALS, PER STATE 094270. IN ORDER SHARPEN TEAM'S PERCEPTIONS OF WHERE MOROCCO CURRENTLY STANDS IN ITS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BEFORE IT ARRIVES, SKALLI PROMISED TO SEND EMBASSY
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SELECTED DOCUMENTS ON SUBJECT FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO WASHINGTON. WE WILL POUCH ON RECEIPT.

2. AS NOTED REF A, SKALLI STRONGLY PREFERS DOE TEAM VISIT BEFORE AID TEAM ARRIVES. WHEN E/C COUNSELOR REMINDED HIM THAT JULY AND AUGUST WERE APPARENTLY OUT, SKALLI AGREED THAT AID TEAM MIGHT HAVE TO DELAY ARRIVAL UNTIL EARLY

SEPTEMBER. ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION WOULD BE FOR DOE TEAM TO VISIT MOROCCO DURING WEEK OF JUNE 19, WITH AID TEAM FOLLOWING IN WEEK OF JUNE 26. EVEN IF THIS WAS POSSIBLE, E/C COUNSELOR WONDERED WHETHER ONE WEEK WOULD SUFFICE FOR ACCOMPLISHING ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES MINISTRY WOULD LIKE AID TEAM TO UNDERTAKE. THOUGHT AROSE THAT IF DOE TEAM WERE ABLE TO ARRIVE BY JUNE 19, AID TEAM COULD MAKE ITS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT DURING FOLLOWING WEEK, WITH MORE DETAILED REVIEW OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SECTOR RESERVED FOR SOME PERIOD AFTER JULY/AUGUST DOWN TIME. E/C COUNSELOR NOTED THAT SUCH A SCHEDULE WOULD DEPEND ON DOE TEAM'S AVAILABILITY, AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, MIGHT NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR AID TEAM MEMBERS TO STUDY PRELIMINARY MATERIAL SKALLI PROMISED TO SEND. MATERIAL IS NOT YET IN OUR HANDS AT THIS WRITING. SKALLI AGREED IT BEST TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF FOREGOING POINTS, BUT STRESSED AGAIN THAT MINISTRY ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE AID TEAM, EVEN IF VISIT IS DELAYED UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

3.COMMENT: IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, EMBASSY AND AID MISSION BELIEVE DOE TEAM VISIT IS ABOUT ALL THAT CAN BE PRODUCTIVELY WORKED INTO JUNE TIME FRAME. WORTH NOTING IN THIS CONNECTION IS JUNE 8-16 VISIT OF TWO BUREAU OF MINES EXPERTS TO MOROCCO, PER STATE 112883. ALTHOUGH VISIT IS UNRELATED TO ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM, SKALLI'S MINISTRY HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING WEEK LONG PROGRAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ACTIVITIES IN RABAT AND ELSEWHERE. WE THINK THREE VISITS IN ONE MONTH WOULD DEFINITELY OVERLOAD CIRCUITS. DEFERRING AID TEAM VISIT TO SEPTEMBER, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD PROBABLY GIVE EVERYONE NEEDED BREATHING SPACE. IT WOULD ALSO ENABLE US TO PLAY THEME OF USG INTEREST IN MOROCCO'S ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN MORE MEASURED AND CONTINUING FASHION.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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